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Approved For Release 2005/02/17: CIA-RDP78B04770A001000030051-3

13 January 1966

EVALUATION OF FINAL REPORT ON PAR 217

Background

PAR 217 of Contract was concerned with the optimization of the laser for photographic purposes. Its basic task was to explore the production of 0.5 micron wavelength (blue-green) laser radiation by harmonic doubling in certain bi-refringent crystals, those of ammonium di-hydrogen phosphate (ADP) and potassium di-hydrogen phosphate (KDP). undertook the problem on 2 March 1964 and completed the work on 12 October 1965 at a cost to the Government The primary objective of this program, as defined at the outset was "a final report discussing in detail all investigation and tests accomplished." Special emphasis was to be placed upon reporting: (1) the knowledge gained regarding the combination of a laser with a harmonic doubling crystal element as a source of coherent, with a variety of photographic sensitized materials; and (3) recommendation regarding the breadboarding and building of prototype equipment to support the photo-exploitation community.	
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Evaluation

- 1. An entirely accurate appraisal of the worth of this contract and its final report will be most difficult to make. Due to concurrent advances in the state-of-the-art regarding lasers, several aspects of the prescribed course of study became unavoidably obsolescent during the contract period, while other features retained their original significance throughout. In particular, the development of an operational, continuous wave, gas laser, which radiated in the blue-green wavelength area virtually eliminated the necessity of resorting to the harmonic doubling process with its consequent flicker fusion of discrete pulses from the neodymium-doped, borate glass laser. In view of the above unforeseen circumstances, it would be both unfair and inaccurate to judge work solely upon an absolute value basis. Their work will be evaluated according to the successes and/or failures experienced in approaching their objectives as originally stated.
- 2. The final report does not reflect inputs from other sources associated with similar studies; a literature search in the required depth would have helped the study.
- 3. The laboratory-oriented portion of the study was a competent effort as far as it went. Unfortunately, it was cut short by the unreported

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Evaluation, continued.

re-allocation of equipment to another project during the re-examination of the goals on this program. Prior to that time, had successfully completed the initial, mechanical problem-solving stage in achieving operation of the glass laser with harmonic doubling element. Aside from a theoretical error in some crystallographic considerations and the consequent backtracking in experimental procedure, this phase of the contract seems to have progressed well with some meaningful results. In fact, its description occupies the bulk of the Final Report. Subsequent to this phase were scheduled the photographic tests which promised to yield the results of greatest potential interest to us. These tests, involving image quality and a variety of sensitized materials, however, were virtually eliminated by all because of rather tentative findings obtained from PAR 216. The lone area to receive any detailed attention was that of beam uniformity, only preliminary results were obtained, however, and no significant quantitative parameters or probable causes could be determined. That the beam would vary in spatial intensit was expected; the correction of this phenomenon is a real photographic concern and a known problem area.
discussion of the conversion efficiency aspects of the second harmonic technique for the generation of visible, coherent radiation is valid. The necessity of such a high energy, low efficiency method of lasing has become outmoded, however, and even at the time of this contract, sole recommendation that we expect a moderately priced, continuous wave, blue-green, gas laser soon to be commercially available was a foregone conclusion.

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AL 16-100053-1

27 January 1966

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I have received your letter of 3 January, together with its attachment "NPIC Evaluation of PAR 211", dated 30 December 1965. Because of the wording of this evaluation as well as your informal forwarding of it, I am sure you do not desire a sentence by sentence commentary on it.

One of the misconceptions that came up early in the life of this contract was that the services of our Research Laboratory were being bought. I have tried in the past to make it quite clear that this Company will not accept work under contract for any research involving photosensitive materials or processes. We might attempt to determine, under contract, what material, process, equipment or combinations of these would best solve a customer problem. Nevertheless, this misconception continues and you could go a long way in establishing rapport between us if you could eliminate it.

I think I would disagree that the processing of the camera films is not of interest to NPIC. Anything which affects NPIC's ability to extract information from the film should be of importance to NPIC even though they may not perform the operation in their own house.

It is true that we had planned to do work on the duplicating films 8430 and 5427. In fact, in our report on 26 February 1965, we indicated that we were ready to start work on these films. By this date, however, we were not only close to our authorized expenditure but were well aware of the feelings of your office concerning our efforts. The stop work order, while formalized in a letter dated 27 April 1965, had been implied in telephone calls and conferences much earlier. The three supplements to this PAR were prepared as a result of specific requests from your office but were not approved upon submission.

I am surprised that there is a complaint that the Final Report includes data previously reported in quarterly and monthly reports. I guess I just thought this was a common practise to collect all of the data even though it might have been mentioned previously.

While your evaluators recognize the circumstances, they apparently failed to realize that what they were reading was a "Termination" rather than a "Final" report. We would be the first to agree that we had not completed the job we had planned to do.

E. L. G.

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2. ESTIMATE TOTAL COST TO COMPLETE WILL BE ADDITIONAL.

HAVE STOPPED WORK PENDING YOUR APPROVAL TO PROCEED.

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